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XV. *Description of the Corvus leucolophus, or white crowned Crow of India, in a Letter to Aylmer Bourke Lambert, Esq. F.R.S. and A.S. V.P.L.S. By Lieut-Colonel Thomas Hardwicke, F.L.S.*

Read December 1, 1812.

SIR,

IN moments of leisure I occasionally give my attention to the collection of drawings which I formed during a long residence in the East Indies ; and as I am induced to believe some subjects among them belonging to the animal creation are not to be found described in any publication extant, which has yet fallen under my observation, I shall, with permission, when I meet with such as bear the marks of novelty, offer them to the Society for examination, and to be disposed of according to its opinion and judgement.

The subject I now have the honour to submit to the Society is a bird of the genus *Corvus*. In referring it to this genus, however, it is with deference to higher authority, and I believe in coincidence with the opinion of the ablest living Ornithologist, Dr. Latham.

The first inspection of the figure may suggest the propriety of calling this bird

CORVUS

## CORVUS LEUCOLOPHUS.

*The white crowned Crow.*

*C. cristatus cinereo-fuscus, capite collo pectoreque niveis, loris temporibusque atris.*

## TAB. XV.

It is about the size of a jackdaw; in length from tip of the bill to the end of the tail eleven inches three quarters.

Bill sub-conical, the upper mandible convex, both of equal length, with sharp edges; in length one inch three-eighths, very strong, and black.

Nostrils rather high, with short stiff black feathers procumbent on their margins, but not covering them: near the angles of the mouth a few long bristly feathers projecting forward.

Plumage of the head, neck, throat and breast a beautiful white; the feathers of the head rising from the front into a fine crest, and gently bending backwards: the body, wings and tail of uniform ferruginous brown, excepting a narrow line of a lighter brown, which terminates the white towards the body: from the nasal apertures a black line, of about half an inch in breadth, of short feathers extends backwards as far as the auricles, including the eye, and passing in a narrow arched margin over it.

The tail nearly the length of the body, feathers equal, and rounded at their ends.

Legs cinereous; claws black, strong, and much bent, the posterior claw largest.

This bird is a native of the forests in the mountains above Hurdwar, and noticed in my Journey to Sireenagur in 1796. They are found in numbers from twenty to fifty. When assembled



*Corvus leucolophus.*

Weddell. Sculp.